

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 RSR-01 /053 W

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R 310700Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7742

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

S E C R E T HONG KONG 7638

LIMDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-2

PFOR, TH, CH

SUBJ: RTG DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI'S VISIT TO HONG KONG

REF: BANGKOK 11618

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGENOFF ON JULY 28 RE DEP FONMIN CHARTCHAI'S RECENT VISIT TO HONG KONG-MACAU, RTG CONGEN PRACHA GUNA-KASEM SOUGHT TO DIVERT ALL QUESTIONS BY DECLARING AT THE OUTSET THAT "NOTHING AT ALL WENT ON DURING VISIT." HOWEVER, IN LATER DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HIS OWN INCREASED CONTACTS WITH PRC AFFILIATED OFFICIALS IN HONG KONG FOLLOWING THE THAI VISITS TO PRC LAST YEAR, PRACHA MADE REMARK WHICH UNDERCUT HIS INITIAL DISCLAIMER. PRACHA COMMENTED THAT HE FOUND LOCAL PRC OFFICIALS OF CHINA RESOURCES, NCNA AND HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS ALL SOCIALLY AFFABLE AND EASILY APPROACHABLE, BUT THAT BANK OF CHINA OFFICIALS WERE RELATIVELY RESERVED ABOUT CONTACTS. HE THEN ADDED THAT HE HAD TRIED TO GET A COUPLE OF BANK OF CHINA OFFICIALS IN A GET-TOGETHER WITH CHARTCHAI BUT "THEY DIDN'T TAKE PART." THERE THUS WAS A CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT A MEETING BETWEEN CHARTCHAI AND CERTAIN PRC OFFICIALS HAD TAKEN PLACE.

2. PRACHA (WHO WILL SHORTLY BE TAKING UP MFA DIRECTOR OF

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INFORMATION DEPT POST) INDICATED HE WAS ON GOOD PERSONAL TERMS

WITH CHARTCHAI. REMARKING THAT INCLUSION OF MFA POLITICAL DEPT DIRGEN PHAN IN THAI BADMINTON TEAM VISIT TO PRC WAS SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT, PRACHA SAID THAT CHARTCHAI PERSONALLY WAS IN FAVOR OF THE RTG MOVING AHEAD WITH CLOSER RELAT UNS WITH CHINA. AFER ALL, US AND AUSTRALIA, AMONG OTHERS, HAVE GONE FAR IN THIS DIRECTION AND MALAYSIA WAS ON THE VERGE OF ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THAILAND HAD TO TAKE CERTAIN STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION AS WELL. PRACHA SAID THAT CHARTCHAI WAS MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL DEPT WHN DISCUSSIONS OF FIRST THAI VISIT TO PRC WERE HELD LAST YEAR AND CHARTCHAI HIMSELF HAD STRONGLY PRESSED TO BE INCLUDED AS A PARTICIPANT. IT WAS ONLY INTERVENTION OF HIGHER LEVELS IN RTG THAT PREVENTED CHARTCHAI FROM MAKING THE VISIT.

3. WHILE WE HAVE NO DEFINATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE REPORT OF THE PRC EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO CHARTCHAI (REFTEL, PRACHA'S REMARKS CERTAINLY SUGGEST THIS POSSIBILITY.
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